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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 CU-02 SAJ-01 ARA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 /095 W
---------- 110870
R 200859Z FEB 75
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TO SECSTATE WASDC 1804
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMCONSUL LUANDA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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SUBJ: SOCIALST YOUTH HOLD FIRST CONGRESS

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REF: LISBON 179 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: SOCIALIST YOUTH (JS) HAVE HELD FIRST CONGRESS. ORGANIZATION MATTERS, ELECTION OF NEW LEADERSHIP AND 20 REPS TO SOCIALIST NATIONAL DIRECTORATE, AND EDUCATION TOPICS MAIN CONCERN OF CONGRESS. COMMUNIST STUDENT FEDERATION ALSO DENOUNCED BY CONGRESS. MARIO SOARES ADDRESSED CONGRESS, STRESSING NEED FOR PARTY DISCIPLINE. END SUMMARY

1. YOUTH WING OF SOCIALIST PARTY (JUVENTUDE SOCIALISTA-JS) HELD ITS FIRST CONGRESS OVER WEEKED FEB. 15-16 IN SEASIDE RESORT OF CAPARICA SOUTH OF LISBON. SOME 500 NATIONAL DELEGATES PARTICIPATED. REPRESENTATIVES FROM GUINEA-BISSAU AND TWO FAR LEFT NATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS (MAOIST FEDERATION OF MARXIST-LENINIST STUDENTS AND FEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST YOUTH-MARXIST LENINIST) ALSO PRESENT. NINE FOREIGN SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS SENT OBSERVERS: BELGIUM, SWEDEN, ITALY, FINLAND, ENGLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, CHILE (LUIS AYALA, PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH), GERMANY, AND SPAIN (PSOE).

2. ALTHOUGH JS IS ORGANIZATIONALLY AUTONOMOUS, A NUMBER OF SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) LEADERS WERE PRESENT IN ORDER TO ENSURE PARTY DISCIPLINE AND ADHERENCE TO PS POLITICALLINE. MARIO SOARES MADE SPEECH TO CONGRESS URGING NEED FOR GREATER DISCIPLINE IF SOCIALISTS TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND DYNAMIC PARTY. JS LEADERS REGRETTED RECENT ACTS OF INDISCIPLINE BY ELEMENTS OF JS LEADERSHIP IN OPORTO, LEADING TO EXPULSION OF EIGHT. EXAMPLES CITED WERE JS PARTICIPATION IN ATTACK ON CDS CONGRESS LAST MONTH AND FORGING OF MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS IN ORDER TO INCREASE OPORTO REPRESENTATION TO CONGRESS.

3. BULK OF CONGRESS' DISCUSSIONS REVOLVED AROUND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS AND OTHER QUESTIONS OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO STUDENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, CONGRESS APPROVED CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ABOLITION OF STUDENT CIVIC SERVICE, WHICH SET UP TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE TO THOSE THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS FOR WHOM NO PLACE EXISTS IN OVERCROWDED UNIVERSITY SYSTEM. JS DEMANDED AN IMMEDIATE PLACE FOR ALL STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITY. CONGRESS DENOUNCED COMMUNIST STUDENT FEDERATION KNOWN AS PRO-UNEP, WHICH SEEKS A SINGLE NATIONAL
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STUDENT FEDERATION.

4. JS IDENTIFIED THREE PRIMARY TARGETS FOR ACTION: AGRARIAN REFORM, NATIONALIZATION OF MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS OF ECONOMY, AND CULTURAL REVOLUTION. CONGRESS CONDEMNED RECENTLY ENACTED SINGLE LABOR CONFEDERATION, AND CALLED ON ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT TO OVERSEE REVOLUTION IN PROGRESS BUT NOT BE ITS EXECUTOR, A TASK, IT SAID, RESERVED FOR CIVILIAN POLITICAL PARTIES.

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5.JS AGREED ON RESTRUCTURING OF PARTY, DEFINED ITS POLITICAL LINE IN A NUMBER OF FIELDS, DECIDED TO LET SOCIALISTS UP TO AGE 30 IN JS, AND ELECTED A NEW 41-MAN NATIONAL DIRECTORATE. IT ALSO DECIDED TO REQUEST ADMISSION TO INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOCIALIST YOUTH.

6. MOST IMPORTANT ACTION WAS SELECTION OF 20 REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON 151-MAN NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF SOCIALIST PARTY, AN ARRANGEMENT AGREED ON AT LAST SOCIALIST CONGRESS (REFTEL. NO OTHER POLITICAL PARTY IN PORTUGAL HAS GIVEN ITS YOUTH WING SUCH REPRESENTATION IN AFFAIRS OF PARTY.

7. COMMENT: JS CONGRESS WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JAN. 20, BUT POSTPONED BECAUSE OF TURMOIL CAUSED BY DEFECTION OF MANUEL SERRA AND ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF JS TOP LEADERSHIP.
MOST OF SERRA'S SUPPORTERS PRESUMABLY HAVE LEFT JS, MAKING IT LESS OF POLITICAL RISK TO HOLDCONGRESS. JUDGING FROM CLOSENESS OF VOTE FOR NATIONAL COMMISSION (WINNING LIST GOT LESS THAN 50 PERCENT OF VOTES CAST) AND FOR REPS TO SOCIALIST DIRECTORATE (WHERE VOTE 182 TO 159), THE JS IS NOT OF ONE MIND ON QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP.
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